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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

'Part of so many traditions'

College student with ties to past Holyoke Colleens will preside over Agawam's court

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Irish eyes in town will smile at Elizabeth Caracciolo after the 20-year-old junior at Westfield State University was named the 2016 Agawam Colleen.

She was chosen from five finalists by the three independent judges at the 16th annual coronation held Sunday morning at Chez Josef. The four runners-up, Abaigeal Malouin, Julianne Moriarty, Caroline Wysocki, and Isabel Lamkins, will comprise the Colleen court for this year.

Caracciolo had butterflies all weekend, she said.

"Once I got in front of the judges for the interview," she said, "I felt my jitters disappear and I was able to be myself and speak from the heart."

Agawam's St. Patrick's Committee has named a Colleen to take part in the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke since 2001. Caracciolo said she is looking forward to being a part of that tradition.

"I view my duties as the Colleen as

COLLEEN | page 8



The 2016 Colleen court includes, from left, Abaigeal Malouin, Julianne Moriarty, 2016 Colleen Elizabeth Caracciolo, and court members Caroline Wysocki and Isabel Lamkins.

Agawam Colleen Elizabeth Caracciolo, right, leads the Colleen court in their march at Chez Josef last Saturday. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

AGAWAM YMCA



YMCA of Greater Springfield President Scott Berg, left, stands with Agawam City Councilor Joseph Mineo, who chairs the Agawam YMCA's advisory board, and Andrew Melendez, the local branch's executive director. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

Y eyes ways to grow

By Michael J. Ballway
mballway@turley.com

Agawam's little YMCA has big plans for its second year in operation.

"It's growing and we're going to continue to grow," said Joseph Mineo at a YMCA board meeting Tuesday morning. "I think Agawam is committed to making sure the Y stays here in Agawam."

Mineo, who is also the vice president of the City Council,

ran his first meeting as the new chairman of the Agawam YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center's advisory board on Tuesday morning. He and local Executive Director Andrew Melendez emphasized that despite the local Y losing money in its first full year of operation — it opened on Springfield Street in Agawam in October 2014 — the Y has taken steps to reduce its deficit and in-

YMCA | page 15

WALNUT ST. EXT.

Businesses stay involved in 'downtown' design process

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

Owners of Walnut Street Extension businesses will gather again to go over updated plans for the proposed streetscape redesign.

Agawam Planning and Community Development Director Marc Strange said all of the business owners attended a Dec. 10, 2015, meeting to go over the initial plans for improving traffic flow, increasing parking and adding sidewalks.

Strange said the owners seem to be on board with the plans despite some early trepidation.

"There was some anxiety on the part of the business owners," said Strange. "But the designers at Tighe & Bond have done a great job explaining everything to the owners and everyone seems to be in favor of the re-design."

There is still no timetable for the actual reconstruction of Walnut Street Extension, as the town will seek grant funding to make it a reality.

Strange said the town will con-

tinue to meet with owners to keep them updated on changes to the design.

The owners meetings have been taking place at the First Stop Café. Strange said holding the meetings at a site in the proposed project area is better for explaining concepts.

"It helps that we are able to be on the site," said Strange. "We are hoping to actually go for a walk on the site at our next meeting so people can get a visual for the design."

WALNUT | page 15

SUFFIELD STREET

Motel, gas station parcels could be developed together

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Colvest Group, a real estate developer, has purchased the closed Agawam Motor Lodge and will soon demolish the building.

The motel at 23 Suffield St. is adjacent to a vacant lot, also owned by Colvest, at the corner of Suffield and Main streets. The firm has already demolished the Getty gas station that formerly

stood on the corner property.

Colvest owning both properties could lead to them being redeveloped together. Mayor Richard Cohen said the properties are both zoned for business, but he did not have any particular preference for what could go on the properties.

"I am hoping it will be an attractive property for a potential buyer," said Cohen. "We have the Walnut Street Extension project

and the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge is scheduled for renovations soon. It could help revitalize the area."

Frank Colaccino, president of Springfield-based Colvest, did not return a call seeking comment prior to press time, but said in a press release his firm is considering options for the redevelopment of the property.

"Our development plans are

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16 PAGES

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

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Remembering Jim Flynn

Memorial event raises \$600 for Dakin animals

More than 50 friends and co-workers of Agawam Water Department foreman Jim Flynn, who unexpectedly passed away this fall, celebrated his 62nd birthday with his signature "Flynn's World Famous Texas Chili," pizza, and birthday cake Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the Italian Sporting Club. With Flynn's treasured golden retriever Jameson in attendance, the event, including an Irish blessing and John Jameson Irish Whiskey toast, raised over \$600 for the Dakin Humane Society. Organizers Paula and Larry Montagna hope that it will become an annual event, honoring Flynn's memory and supporting his favorite charity.



Friends and coworkers of the late Jim Flynn, including his dog Jameson, celebrated his memory and supported his favorite charity earlier this month. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Dave's card program benefits animal groups

Dave's Soda & Pet City announced recently that the Friends of Dave's program was a success in 2015. Customers helped raise \$34,730 for the following organizations: Feline Friends, \$8,076; Dakin Humane Society, \$5,041; T.J. O'Connor's Adoption Center, \$4,504; Greyhound Options Inc., \$2,220; Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation, \$2,109; Blue Star Equiculture, \$1,159; Gemini's Pampered Greyhounds, \$758; Halfway Home Rescue, \$686; Mary's Kitty Korner, \$858; and Agawam Friends of the Homeless Cats, \$539.

The Friends of Dave's program provides local animal organizations and shelters with Friends of Dave's Cards that they pass out to friends or supporters. Every time a cardholder shops at Dave's Soda & Pet City, 5 percent of the sale is donated to that organization. Dave's, based on Springfield Street in Agawam, has seven stores and more than 100 employees.

Free workshop on VA benefits set for Monastery Heights

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Landmark at Monastery Heights will partner with the Holyoke VNA and the town of West Springfield to offer an educational workshop about Veterans Affairs benefits, 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. All are invited to this free event.

The workshop will include a review of the eligibility criteria and how thousands of families, even in cases of higher net worth, have become eligible for VA Aid and Attendance benefit, a \$1,250 to \$2,000 monthly pension for eligible veterans or their surviving spouses. To be eligible, veterans must have served 90 consecutive days or more with at least one day during a wartime period (World War II, Korea, etc.) and meet a few medical and financial eligibility criteria.

To register, call 413-781-1282. Those interested, but unable to attend the workshop, can contact Michelle Plante at 413-781-1282 for more information about the benefit. Landmark is at 110 Monastery Ave., West Springfield.

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LAURIE always greets folks with a huge smile and is very much a people person. She is a local musician/singer and has been working at the Center Square Grille in East Longmeadow. LAURIE is a perfect fit with the DISANTI REALTY GROUP family, because we all have the same goal....to make the process of buying or selling a home, a comfortable, informative and manageable process, where we strive to take as much pressure off of you as possible in one of the most important decisions of your life.

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Tiny houses topic of March presentation

The Agawam Public Library will host "Tiny Houses: A Different Approach to Home Ownership," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 24. Participants will learn the basics of planning for and owning a tiny house on wheels, both its challenges and advantages, with insights that are unique from the popular tiny house-themed shows.

From approximately "how much" to "where to live," this event will address options for general design, heat, hot water and electricity choices, among other components. Living in a tiny house year-round is a topic of rapidly developing debate.

Isa Bauer is the project manager and lead designer from Tiny House Northeast, a New England and upper New York State

tiny house design-build business. Bauer earned a master of arts degree in regional economic and social development with a concentration in sustainable development, including green building materials and construction methods research. Bauer has owned a tiny house since she was 19 years old, as do several members of the Tiny House Northeast team. For more information, visit www.tinyhousenortheast.com.

This event is sponsored by the Agawam Center Library Association. To register, call the library at 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or register online at www.agawamlibrary.org. The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Comedy Night to benefit Lions Club

CHICOPEE — The Agawam Lions Club will hold its 12th annual Comedy Night fundraiser on Saturday, March 5. The event will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee. All proceeds will be used to fund the club's many local community services and civic organizations. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by the show at 7 p.m. There will be a cash bar and several raffles. Those attending are invited to bring snacks.

Ticket are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. For tickets or more information, contact Shawn Disley at 413-687-0268 or dizzydizz@gmail.com, or visit agawamlions.org.

Cookbook Club information night set

The Agawam Public Library is starting a monthly Cookbook Club and will hold an information night at 7 p.m. Monday, March 7, for all those interested. A different cookbook will be chosen each month and participants will choose one recipe to make and share. The Cookbook Club will meet Thursdays, April 7, May 5 and June 2, at 6:30 p.m.

To register, call 413-789-1550, ext. 4, or visit www.agawamlibrary.org. Space will be limited in the club, but the information night is open to anyone interested in learning more about it.

The library is at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

'Chair Fit' classes twice monthly for free

The Agawam Public Library will offer "Chair Fit Plus: Beginner Strength Class" with the YMCA, the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, beginning March 9 at 10:30 a.m. It will focus on the fundamentals of muscle strengthening, including core and balance.

All exercises include the use of a chair. Body weight exercises will also be included to ensure a good workout. All are welcome to join instructor Ryan Rackliffe for these free classes and sample of what the YMCA has to offer. Blood pressure checks will also be available. Registration is not necessary.

The classes will be held at the library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

Town Democrats to elect delegates

Agawam Democrats will elect delegates to the 2016 Massachusetts Democratic Convention at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The caucus will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Agawam Democratic Committee.

The Massachusetts Democratic Convention will be held Saturday, June 4, at the Tsongas Center in Lowell. The delegate fee is \$75.

Lunch with legislators



State Sen. Don Humason, right, and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, left, attended the Valentine's Day Luncheon held Feb. 12 at the Agawam Senior Center. Pictured with the legislators are Ann and Carl Jakobek, of Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

St. John's Travelers announces trips

St. John's Travelers has announced the following schedule of upcoming trips. The three bus trips will depart from St. John's Church, 823 Main St., Agawam. For more information and reservations, call Emile Cote at 413-335-9440.

Friday, April 8: Maple and More in the Berkshires. Cost is \$72 per person. A trip through the Berkshires, an all-you-can-eat breakfast with fresh made maple syrup, wine tasting at Hilltop Orchards in Richmond and an afternoon stop. The bus will depart at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Friday-Monday, April 22-25: Virginia Beach. Cost is \$889 per person, double occupancy; \$799 per person, triple occupancy; \$1,149 per single. Includes three nights at the four-star Sheraton Oceanfront on Virginia Beach, seven meals and one dinner with Virginia International Tattoo, an exhibition of military bands, massed pipes and drums, military drill teams, gymnasts, Scottish dancers, and choirs. A deposit of \$100 is due at sign-up. Cancellation protection is available.

tection is available.

Saturday, April 30: West Point Academy. Cost is \$114 per person and includes the famous U.S. Military Cadet Review, buffet lunch at the Thayer Hotel on the grounds of the U.S. Military Academy, a guided tour of West Point, the Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point and the Hudson River Lookout, and a stop for shopping at the Visitors Center.

Monday, May 9: Self-drive comedy show and brunch at Log Cabin Banquet and Meeting House, Holyoke. Cost is \$54 per person. Entertainment provided by Ross Bennett. Travelers should arrive at the Log Cabin at 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, July 22: Kick off summer 2016 with a self-drive trip to the Summit View, Holyoke, for a barbecue luncheon and a performance by the Eagles Tribute Band. Cost is \$52 per person. Travelers should arrive at the Summit View at 11:30 a.m.

Fundraiser to benefit Katelynn's Ride

WEST SPRINGFIELD — A fundraiser to support Katelynn's Ride 2016 is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Storowton Tavern & Carriage House, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.

Katelynn's Ride was founded in memory of Katelynn Battista of West Springfield, who lost her battle with cancer at age 11. Over the Past 15 years, nearly \$2 million has been raised to help children with cancer.

Tickets are \$20 per person and include

hors d'oeuvres. There will be a raffle, 50-50 and live music by the "Modern Country" band.

For tickets, call 413-519-6479 or make checks payable to Katelynn's Ride and mail to Katelynn's Ride, 118 Galaska St., W. Springfield, MA 01089. Include name, phone number and email address and tickets will be emailed. Tickets may also be purchased from any member of the Battista family. Seating is limited.



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National Parks and Lodges of the Old West

Trip Dates: July 13-22, 2016

INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Saturday, February 20, 2016

10:00 a.m. Glenmeadow
 24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow, MA

Thursday, March 24, 2016

10:00 a.m. Springfield Museums
 21 Edwards St., Springfield, MA

5:00 p.m. Glenmeadow
 24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow, MA

This journey celebrates the American West's magnificent National Parks, including stays at landmark lodging within the parks themselves. Travel in style and comfort while experiencing the country our ancestors dreamed about—and that still resides here. See the best of the West, from Mount Rushmore to Old Faithful, Spearfish Canyon to the Snake River.



Trip is offered in partnership with the Springfield Museums. To register for an information session, call Torrie Dearborn at 413.567.5547 or e-mail tdearborn@glenmeadow.org.

For more details visit glenmeadow.org/getaways. **Glenmeadow**

Opinion

OUR VIEW

Put us on record in support

The Massachusetts Senate's support for reforming how the state handles public records is a move in the right direction toward increasing transparency in government.

It's been a long time coming — the last major update to the public records law was in the early 1970s.

Access to public records should be easy, timely and affordable. However, the current law can hang up requests for long periods of time, which can amount to ridiculous costs in the end.

The legislation under consideration will reduce the cost for records and ensure timely compliance with a request. The limits are set at 5 cents per page for copies, which is a decrease from between 20 and 50 cents per page under current law. It also requires state agencies to provide four free hours of employee time and two free hours for municipalities. Charges for requests that require more time are limited to \$25 per hour.

On top of that, the bill also prohibits charging for records if the agency or municipality does not provide the record within 15 days of the request or does not respond to the requestor within 10 days. Punitive damages of up to \$5,000 are required if a court determines the government entity did not act in good faith.

This alone will hold any agency with a request pending accountable to the law.

Our region's state senator, Donald Humason, joined a unanimous vote for the public records reform and has been assigned to the six-member conference committee that will work out the differences between the bills passed by the Senate and the House. According to Common Cause Massachusetts, the Senate version has more direct and easy-to-navigate enforcement provisions. It's worth noting that the Massachusetts Municipal Association prefers the House version, which doesn't limit the fees that public agencies can charge, and allows them more time to comply with requests. In both cases, the average citizen benefits from the stricter Senate bill — but it does carry with it the potential for frivolous or time-consuming records requests to swamp small, thinly staffed town halls or individual departments.

That's why it's encouraging that Humason, whose district includes some of the state's smallest towns, such as Tolland and Montgomery, is on the conference committee.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues on the committee to send Gov. Baker practical legislation that updates our public records laws while limiting undue hardships on cities and towns," Humason said this week.

"The issue of public records access is exceptionally important to good democracy and an open government on the state and local levels," the senator added.

Democracy, after all, means rule by the people. How can we rule if our public servants — our employees — don't answer to us?

What do you think? Send your letter to the editor to aan@turley.com.

Let us know

The Agawam Advertiser News, your community newspaper, welcomes letters, submissions, photographs and news tips from residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills.

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Our office is open Monday through Thursday mornings, and other weekday times by appointment.

- ☐ SAY IT WITH FLOWERS
- ☐ SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS
- ☐ SAY IT WITH CHOCOLATES
- ☒ JUST SAY IT!



Letter to the Editor



A photograph in the Agawam Mirror shows the Agawam High School Class of 1924. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The first Agawam High School graduates

Agawam's original high school is now the Roberta G. Doering School. It opened in the fall of 1922, and school records state that there were no seniors during the initial 1922-23 school year, meaning that there would not be a 1923 graduating class.

A recent "Yesterday's Hometown News" column speculated that there must have been seniors that first year, and proof is contained in the 1924 Annual Report, which states that those graduating in 1924 "joined the ranks of the first alumni," implying that the class of 1924 was not the first to graduate. Yet, a few sentences earlier in the same Annual Report, the following was stated, "The capstone of any public school system is the high school and the culminating event in the high school course is the graduation. The honor of giving Agawam the first commencement fell to the class of 1924."

So, in the same paragraph the Town Report states that the class of '24 was the first to graduate, but also states that those graduates joined the ranks of the first alumni, implying that the class of '24 was the second graduating class. These contradictory statements make it difficult to determine whether the class of '23 or '24 was the first.

Above is a photo from the Agawam Mirror, the high school's newspaper. Students staff the newspaper and a teacher serves as advisor. The sign in the bottom row indicates that the group is the class of 1924. Note especially the comment at the bottom of the photo specifying that the class of 1924 was the first graduating class. The gentleman in the top row is School Superintendent Benjamin Phelps.

Mike Marieb
Feeding Hills

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

Vic Ramah, World War II hero

If someone starts talking about large families that grew up in Agawam, you probably think Meade, Haseltine or Hastings. Good choices. For me, a fourth choice is the Ramah family, maybe because there were so many Ramahs in the same neighborhood where Senator Avenue intersects Cooper Street.

Last year, Victor Ramah called me to cut down some brush and branches for him on Senator Avenue. It took about an hour and a half and he watched me for most of the time as he smoked a cigar. We talked quite a while and I knew

when he told me about what he did in World War II that I would be back to hear his story. I returned recently and I hope you enjoy what I learned.



Walt Willard

Victor Ramah was born on Aug. 23, 1917, at Mercy Hospital in Springfield. His family lived on Spring Street in Springfield, so Vic went to Tech High in the '30s after the Depression and before World War II. Before he graduated in 1934, his dad Louis and his uncle Peter Ramah bought a farm in Agawam. The farm was on Cooper Street, but it only had a small house, which barely sat-



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 380 Union Street, Suite 52; West Springfield, MA 01089 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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GUEST COMMENTARY

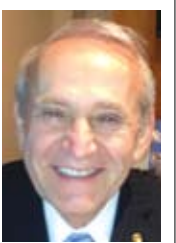
Time for elected officials to lead the fight against drug abuse

Drugs and heroin use is not only a problem, but it has now become an epidemic in our country. Many people die every day and their families live in a nightmare. Recently in our neighboring town of Westfield, there were three deaths due to overdoses in one week. Other towns experience similar situations.

In our country, fatal heroin overdoses almost tripled between 2010 and 2013, from 3,036 to 8,257, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vermont has seen a more than 770 percent increase in people receiving treatment for opiate addiction since 2000. During one week in Pennsylvania in 2014, 22 people died after injecting heroin laced with fentanyl, a drug that can be 100 times stronger than morphine. In 2010, the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported that 8.76 million Americans were abusing prescription medicine, with 5.1 million misusing painkillers. Today those numbers are higher. The cost of black market painkillers soared and addicts turned to heroin, which is available at one-tenth, or less, of the price.

The Centers for Disease Control study found that three out of four new heroin users report previous abuse of narcotic painkillers. Roland Von Kaler, the grandfather of a 16-year-old girl who died from an overdose, began a campaign to inform committee members about how heroin addiction begins. Together, we must, in every city and town, do this and a lot more to protect, prevent and support those in need. We must use severe punishment for those who distribute the narcotics that kill our children. We must hold them responsible for their deaths. Our system must do more to find and put away, for a long time, those drug dealers from the top to the bottom.

Von Kaler's daughter, Elizabeth Solo-



George Bitzas

monson, the mother of the 16 year-old girl who died, said, "You have to put a face on this epidemic to get people to connect the dots. Everyone thinks heroin users are scumballs and my daughter was a great, beautiful kid." Von Kaler says he "still gets angry when people don't pay attention to the drug problem until it hits their own family and they find out the pain firsthand. We need more public awareness."

I attended a forum in Boston about the drug abuse problem in our state. The hall was full with mayors, city councilors and community leaders. It was an eye-opener.

According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association's Opiate Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force, "Local officials can and must provide leadership to guide the effort to combat this epidemic. Municipal leaders can make a real difference to reverse this crisis, save lives and create healthy, safe and thriving communities. This is a moral duty that all of us who are privileged to serve in local government must embrace fully. In the past three years, at least 258 of the commonwealth's 351 cities and towns have lost residents to fatal opioid overdoses."

Michael McGlynn, mayor of Medford, co-chair of the Municipal Opioid Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force, said, "Municipal officials across the commonwealth have the obligation to lead the fight against the devastating impact of substance abuse and addiction. It is crucial to engage students in education and prevention as early as is appropriate."

I hope in the near future every city and town not only in our state, but in all the United States, band together to fight this epidemic.

George Bitzas is an Agawam city councilor.

HOMETOWN ■ from page 1

ified the definition. For two years, Peter and Louis maintained the home in Springfield and the Agawam structure while a French carpenter they hired built a new home, which is now 304-306 Cooper St. It's a big red and white house near the Italian Sporting Club end of Senator Avenue.

Vic Ramah is 98 years old and still very sharp. He has a great memory, some good stories and was able to explain the Ramah family to me. His uncle Peter and aunt Bedar had six children — Joseph, Simon, George, Josephine, Helen and Cecelia. His dad Louis and mother Yesmine had 11 children — Thomas, Edward, Albert, Fred, Isar, Sally, Victoria, Mary, Rose, Amelia and Victor.

After Tech High, Vic had a job at Perkins Machine on Circuit Avenue in West Springfield. There he assembled machinery for airplanes, as Perkins built components for Northrup Industries' P-39s. They were popular planes, especially for the Russians, who bought nearly 5,000 of them.

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, Vic remembers jumping out of a window at Perkins and driving to Springfield to talk to a recruiter. That recruiter handed Vic a fuel pump and asked him to take it apart and put it back together. Vic said it was a "piece of cake." The recruiter was pleased and told him someone would pick him up in a week.

The Air Corps sent him to three different schools. He learned about the B-29s in Seattle, the B-17s at Fort Myers, Fla., and about the B-24s in Ypsilanti, Mich. He performed his duties as a flight engineer until the spring of 1946 and was certainly one of the "Greatest Generation" who won World War II.

Vic and his wife Mya had three boys that they raised on Senator Avenue. The oldest is Russ, who has two children, Matt and Becky. The middle son is Jim, whose two children are Jeff and Elizabeth. The youngest son, Buddy, has two girls, Kasey and Megan.



Vic Ramah. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vic's son Buddy takes him to Giovanni's every day and worries that Vic will start slipping. Last summer, Vic told Buddy that a B-17 flew over the house that morning. Naturally, Buddy figured that Vic was finally acting like a 90-plus-year-old. Buddy laughed and smiled the next day when he found out that a vintage B-17 had flown in and would be at Barnes Airport for the weekend. Great story! Great hero!

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.

Obituaries

Laura Margaret (Innis) Munn, 94

LONGMEADOW — Laura Margaret (Innis) Munn, age 94, beloved wife of the late John T. Munn, died Thursday, Feb. 11, at the home of her daughter. She was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, March 22, 1921, a daughter of the late George and Augusta (Sigvaldon) Innis, and lived in Billerica before moving to Longmeadow 13 years ago.

Mrs. Munn was a proofreader for the North Adams Transcript for many years.

She is survived by two sons, John Munn and his wife Donna of Holden and Alan Munn of Florida; one daughter, Marjorie Hill and her husband David of Agawam; four grandchildren, Brian and Catherine Hill and Mark and Matthew Proia; as well as five great-grandchildren.

All services will be held privately and at the convenience of her family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Baystate VNA and Hospice, 50 Maple St., Springfield, MA 01102, or to Dakin Humane Society, P.O. Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101. Arrangements are by Sweeney Memorial Funeral Home, Billerica. www.sweeneymemorialfh.com.



Wayne T. Smith, 60

Wayne T. Smith, 60, died suddenly at home Wednesday evening, Feb. 10. Wayne was born in Fall River, the son of Helen (Nizalowski) Smith and the late Hector Smith. He grew up in Springfield and has lived in Agawam for the past 17 years.

He was a supervisor in the freight trucking business for many years. Most recently he was working for Conway Freight Co. He was an outstanding athlete and graduate of Commerce High School and a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam. He loved sports and was a fixture in the Forest Park Touch Football League for over 15 years. He also was a longtime umpire for softball.

He leaves the mother of his children and love of his life, Doris Caroleo; two children, Gianna and Garrett; his mother, Helen; brothers Dennis and his wife Barbara, and Mark and his wife Cheri; and sister Gale Brown. Besides his father, Wayne was predeceased by a brother, Gary Smith. He also leaves many loving nieces, nephews and friends.

The funeral will be held at the Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home Friday, Feb. 19, at 10 a.m., with liturgy in St. John the Evangelist Church at 11 a.m. Visiting hours will be held Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. For more details, visit curranjones.com. For those wishing, donations may be made to the Multicultural Community Services, 3 State St., Westfield, MA 01085, in care of Brittany Perez.



DEATH NOTICES

Bennett, William D. Sr.
Died Feb. 8
Memorial Service Feb. 13
Agawam Funeral Home Inc.

James, Philomena
Died Feb. 15
Funeral Feb. 17
Agawam Funeral Home, Inc.

Munn, Laura M. (Innis)
Died Feb. 11, 2016
Private services
Sweeney Memorial Funeral Home
Billerica

Ryan, Norman J. Jr.
Died Feb. 11
Funeral Feb. 18
Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home
Holyoke

Smith, Wayne T.
Died Feb. 10
Funeral Feb. 19
Agawam Curran-Jones
Funeral Home

Agawam Advertiser News Obituary Policy

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

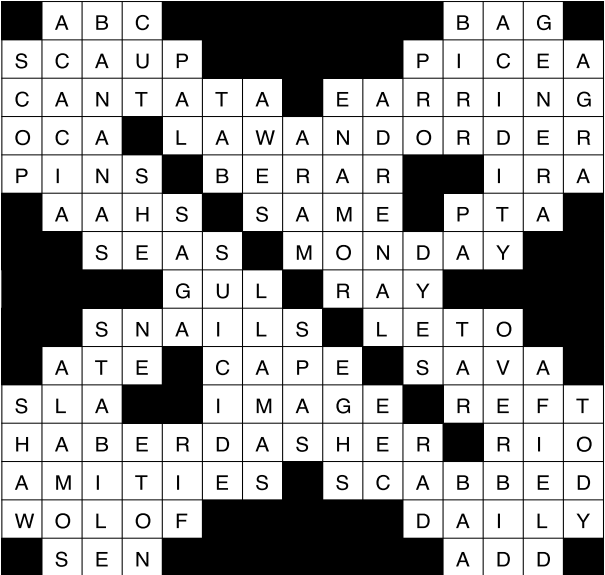
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NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Feb. 19

FRIENDS OF THE AGAWAM LIBRARY’S Juried Photography show awards night and reception at the library, 750 Cooper St., Agawam, 7 to 9 p.m. Music and light refreshments. Free and open to the public.

SPRINGFIELD SPORTSMEN’S SHOW, today through Sunday, in the Better Living Center and Stroh Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. General admission, \$13; children 6 to 12, \$5; under 6, free.

Saturday, Feb. 20

KIDS FUN FAIR / TRAVELING ZOO, today and Sunday, in Mallory East on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. General admission, \$15; children 12 and under free with coupon.

FIRST COMPANY GOVENOR’S FOOT ATHLETIC AS-SOC. Dog show and Obedience Trials, today and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., in the Young Building on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. Free admission.

Sunday, Feb. 21

“HONEST CONVERSATIONS WITH MUSLIM NEIGHBORS,” a program sponsored by the Greater Suffield Interfaith Council and the Connecticut Council for Inter-religious Understanding Hartford Seminary, will be held at 2 p.m. at First Church of Christ, Congregational, 81 High St., Suffield. For more information, call the church at 860-668-0456 or visit interfaith@ccfiu.org.

Thursday, Feb. 25

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a speaker series, “What you need to know about annulment as a Catholic. Can I still be a

practicing Catholic after divorce or annulment?” at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present “Drawing the Portrait” featuring Christina Grace Mastrangelo, classical painter and teacher, at 12:15 in the Museum of Fine Arts at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext

Friday, Feb. 26

FRANK MARATTA’S AUTO AND RACE-A-RAMA SHOW today through Sunday in the Better Living Center on the grounds of the Big E, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield. General admission, \$15; children 8 to 12, \$7.50; free for children 7 and under.

Saturday, Feb. 27

KENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY will host a program on the culture and food of Korea from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Designed for adults and children age 7 and over, it will take place either at the library’s current home, 61 Fyler Place, Suffield, or at 50 N. Main St., Suffield, depending on the status of renovations. To register or to confirm the location, visit www.suffield-library.org or call 860-668-3896.

Thursday, March 3

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a speaker series beginning at 7 p.m., “Is there an alternative to abortion with an unplanned pregnancy?” Find out about the alternative to abortion and resources available. The public is invited.

Saturday, March 5

THE AGAWAM LIONS CLUB COMEDY NIGHT FUND-RAISER at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road, Chicopee. Doors open at 6 p.m., followed by the show at 7 p.m. Cash bar and several raffles. Those attending are invited to bring snacks. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Contact Shawn Disley at 413-687-0268 or dizzy-dizz@gmail.com or visit agawamlions.org.

Wednesday, March 9

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, March 10

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, 833 Main St., Agawam, will host a speaker series beginning at 7 p.m., “Is assisted suicide really death with dignity? What are end of life directives. What about withholding treatment?” The public is invited.

BIG BAND ERA returns with Premier Swing Band from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1552 Westfield St, West Springfield. Free and open to the public. Dance lesson at 6:30 p.m., band at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.PremierEntertains.com, call David Neill at 413-686-5027, or email tb8@aol.com.

Saturday, March 12

BENEFIT FOR LANDEN PALATINO, Agawam American Legion 185, 478 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Two sessions - noon to 3 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Tickets, \$20 for adults; \$7 for children. Buffet, clowns, magicians, a disc jockey and crafts for children. All proceeds to benefit the Palatino family. Eight-year-old Landen has been diagnosed with glioblastoma, a fast-growing brain tumor and has extensive treatment ahead. For tickets, call Jenny Wright at 413-250-5127.

Sunday, March 13

THE WEST SPRINGFIELD COIN CLUB will meet at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Good Shepherd, 214 Elm St., West Springfield. A special coin topic will be presented and discussed. Refreshments available. Guests welcome. For more information, call Peter Setian at 413-596-9871.

ONGOING

GRANDPARENT’S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David’s Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children’s interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A roundtable discussion hosted by a local “veteran” mom, this is

a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Rectory conference room, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers “Crochet Club” every other Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

- Monday, Feb. 22:** American chop suey, garden salad, pears.
Tuesday, Feb. 23: Roast chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, green beans, pudding.
Wednesday, Feb. 24: Pork chops, onion gravy, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, peaches.
Thursday, Feb. 25: Chicken orzo soup, low-sodium ham salad on roll, beet salad, baked good.
Friday, Feb. 26: Baked fish with a Mediterranean sauce, rice pilaf, peas, mixed fruit.

Calendar of Events

- Monday, Feb. 22:** 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., line dancing, 9:30-11 a.m., SNAP food assistance information session; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., bingo; 5:30 p.m., Zumba.
Tuesday, Feb. 23: 9 a.m., exercise, knitting class, sewing class; 10 a.m., chair exercise, Computer Tech group meets, room dedication to Margue-

- rite Mancinone; 12:30 p.m., mah jongg, movie (“The Intern”), ladies billiards; 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 3 p.m., COA meeting; 6 p.m., beginner line dance, evening sewing, art class with Barbara Cohen.
Wednesday, Feb. 24: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1:30 p.m., Golden Age Club Chapter 1 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba; 6:30 p.m., Turnverein chorus.
Thursday, Feb. 25: free tax preparation (by appt.); 9 a.m., exercise, 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., free blood pressure check with Nurse Sherry, pitch; 1:30 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6 p.m., cancer support group; 6:30 p.m., evening pitch, evening line dance.
Friday, Feb. 26: 8 a.m., yoga; 9:15 a.m., all media art class; 10 a.m., tai chi; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage.

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 67 EMS calls from Feb. 2 to Feb. 8, and the following emergency response calls.

On Feb. 2 at 10:08 a.m., the department responded to Birch Hill Road for good intent call, other.

On Feb. 2 at 3:06 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Feb. 2 at 5:47 p.m., the department responded to Shoemaker Lane for lock-out.

On Feb. 2 at 11:18 p.m., the department responded to Coventry Lane for public service.

On Feb. 3 at 8:50 a.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for authorized controlled burning.

On Feb. 3 at 4:31 p.m., the department responded to Moore Street for steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke.

On Feb. 4 at 9:00 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On Feb. 4 at 9:11 a.m., the department responded to General Abrams Drive for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 4 at 12:02 p.m., the department responded to Adams Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Feb. 6 at 10:42 a.m., the department responded to Main Street for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Feb. 6 at 3:57 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for electrical wiring/equipment problem, other.

On Feb. 7 at 1:05 p.m., the department responded to Taft Street with no incident found on arrival at dispatch address.

On Feb. 7 at 5:41 p.m., the department responded to Walnut Street Ext. for special type of incident, other.

On Feb. 8 at 9:54 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Feb. 8 at 5:17 p.m., the department responded to Silver Street for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Feb. 8 at 4:13 p.m., the department responded to Senator Avenue for building fire.

On Feb. 8 at 11:29 p.m., the department responded to South West Street for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

POLICE LOG

Agawam Police Department logs for Feb. 9-15 were not received by press time. All arrests listed for last week in the public log will be printed in a future edition of the Agawam Advertiser News.

CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics

4. Paper container

7. Diving ducks of N America having a bluish-gray bill

9. Spruce

11. Sacred choral composition

14. Ear lobe decoration

16. S Am. wood sorrel cultivated for its edible tubers

17. Wolf drama series

19. Straight, bowling or bobby

21. Cotton growing region in W. Central India

22. Tax saving retirement account

23. Expresses pleasure

25. Synoptical

26. Peseta

27. Oceans

29. Weekday

31. Octagonal motif in rugs

33. Beam out

34. Escargots

37. Mother of Apollo in ancient mythology

40. Fed

41. A sleeveless garment like cloak but shorter

43. Yugoslavian River

45. Patti Hearst’s captors

46. Representational likeness

48. Plundered

50. Clothier

54. ___ de Janeiro

55. Peaceful relations

56. Replaced union workers

58. African people of Senegambia

59. Every 24 hours

60. 1/100 yen

61. Summate

CLUES DOWN

1. Gum arabic

2. Crazy, loco, wacky

3. Unconnected

4. Whirring sound

5. Tartness

6. A group of individuals

7. Bard

8. Buddy

9. Not an amateur

10. North-central Indian city

12. Chit

13. Reverences

14. Inspire with love

15. Endocrine gland

18. Biblical name for Syria

20. The woman

24. Heroic tale

26. Daddy

28. Killing yourself

30. In a way, discolors

32. Artiodactyls

34. Resistant to change

35. Northeast

36. Watering places

38. A way to pave

39. Value excessively

40. Poplar trees (Spanish)

42. Elk Grove High School

44. Abroad

45. Author George Bernard

47. Old world, new

49. Tiny insectivorous W. Indian bird

51. British School

52. Moroccan coastal region

53. Radioactivity unit

57. Sheep sound

Youth

Roberta G. Doering School Honor Roll

Susan Federico, principal at Roberta G. Doering School in Agawam, recently announced the second term honor roll for the 2015-16 school year.

Grade 5: Fatbardh Abdullahu, Connor Adamczyk, Hana Ahmed, Muhamer Ahmeti, Emily Allen, Jared Anziano, Carson Asselin, Megan Ball, Jacob Barber, Alexis Barna, Emilia Barron, Julianne Bazanchuk, Matthew Benard, Madison Bennett, Lillian Bissonnette, Aeryanna Bramlett, Jacob Braska, Kyle Brenes, Landen Cahill, Thomas Cascio, Ava Catelotti, Kylen Cavanugh-O'Hanlon, Nolan Chamberland, Lauren Champigny, Genevieve Charette, Kylie Circosta, Matthew Cleavall, Nicholas Clough, Sean Colfer, Owen Connery, Taryn Crowley, Zahide Cure, Patrick Dahm, Gabrielle Dean, Alexander DeGray, Jazmin Dunbar, Anthony Elias, Hunter Emmons, Murphy Estes, Dylan Fisk, Ryan Fitzgerald, Emily Fitzpatrick, Grace Frasier, Daniel Fronchkevich, Diana Ganovska, Nathaniel Garcia, Bailey Gervais, Evan Gilbert, Cameron Gillis, Athena Gonzalez, Kendra Grady, Christina Grasso, Kaden Grover, Dakota Haggerty, Zoe Hartmann, Tyler Hayward, Dimitri Heinze, Julianna Hunt, Zachary Hurley, Melina Ichtou, Lynn Jang, Diana Javadian, Noah Jodoin, Colin Jorgensen, Jonathan Jung, Angela Kuzmenko, Colin La, Isabel Lalancette, Ian Lamari, Leah LaPointe Autumn LeClair, Abigail Lee, Sarah Legros, Nicholas Liimatainen, Joseph Liquori, Heng Liu, Sophia Longo, Sydney Lubarsky, Nellie Lukowski, Erica Majka, Cohen Manekas, Chloe Michalak, Thalia Mitchell, Sierra Moccio, Alexandra Monteith, Austin Moore, Conor Moriarty, Samuel Morse, Hailey Newsome, Cody Nguyen, Aidan Nofall, William Noll, Niko Nuzzolilli, Arthur Oganyan, Morgan Oldenburg, Nathaniel Olmo, Spencer Page, Arthur Panchelyuga, Mary Papova, William Parker, Krishna Patel, Amber Patrick, Anthony Pederzani, Stefanee Phillips, Ryan Piela, Kevin Pirogov, Alina Polevoy,

Dejawn Pooler, Antoine Poulin, Lyndsey Riopelle, Christopher Rondinelli, Richard Roy, Gabrielle Rueli, Marissa Rufo, Julie Sanchez, Elizabeth Santore, Kayla Santucci, Alexandra Seibert, Emily Sexton, Gabriella Shayda, Nicholas Shea, Kaden Sheehan, Mogan Sigafosse, Gage Sperlonga, Jordan Stick, Cole Stepanik, Maksim Stepchuk, Reese Stevens, Tyler Strain, Sarah Tower, Kylie Turgeon, Alexsy Typrowicz, Isabella Ugolini, Nicholas Uschmann, Jorge Velez, Kristen Vinciguerra, Anthony Virella, Ethyn Watt, McKenna Wheeler, Tyler Williams, Muhammad Zahoor, Mila Zhupikov and Gabrielle Zollo.

Grade 6: Amara Agosto, Asa Agudelo, Nina Baranov, Olivia Barbarini, Susan Belozero, Virginia Caney, Lauren Carrier, Sarah Champigny, Anatoliy Chebanov, Cameron Chrisanthopoulos, Jaylina Cone, Hannah Cote, Taylor Cotton, Jaden Couture, Mikayla Curley, Andrew D'Agostino, Evan Danek, Allison Davenport, Emily DeGeorge, Brooke Deming, Alyssa Drumm, Ella Eastman, Amelia Ellison, Jessica Fox, Sera Gagnon, Livia Gavelis, Diana Ghareeb, Jenel Gonzalez, Emily Gulla, Greta Halford, Marissa Hermans, Abbey Hildreth, Isabella Hill, Haley Hinshaw, Christopher Johnson, Autumn Jones, Minseo Kang, Shane Kendall, Lillian Kennedy, Leah Kenney, Ella Kinchak, Emily Kukharchuk, Jacob Kulas, Clara Laudato, Igor Lavrenchuk, Rachel Le, Brynn Legros, Nathan Lindell, Aurelius Liporada, Mark Lukin, Vincent Martin, Kaycie McColley, Aiden McKay, Benjamin Melnik, Emma Miolla, Jayden Montagna, Elijah Naylor, Jr., Matthew Nigro, Paige O'Neil, Summer O'Neil, Emily Ottomaniello, Maxim Paily, Jackson Patterson, Grace Payne, Dayna Rahilly, Bella Rollend, Kaylee Sanchez, Rachel Stafosse, Gianna Smith, Jessica Taylor, Ashlyn Thomas, Domenic Vecchiarelli, Dylan Wesley, Ernest Whitehead, Branden Wilbur, Trinity Wright, Syeda Zahoor and Madison Zomek.

Scuderi earns biomed student award

WORCESTER — Gaetano Scuderi, of Agawam, was one of two students recently recognized at Worcester Polytechnic Institute as Alfred R. and Janet H. Potvin Outstanding Undergraduate Students in Biomedical Engineering.

Scuderi is a senior at WPI, completing a track in biomaterials and tissue engineering, minoring in biology. He is also a Big Brother-Big Sister mentor, vice president of member development for the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, president of Habitat for Humanity, and is involved in Alpha Eta Mu Beta Biomedical Engineering Honors Society and Tau Beta Pi Engineering National Honors Society. He plans on attending graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering with a specialization in regenerative medicine.

Anne McLoughlin of Kingstown, R.I.,



Gaelano Scuderi of Agawam, right, stands with alumnus Alfred Potvin and with Anne McLoughlin of Rhode Island, who was also awarded for undergraduate work in biomedical engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. SUBMITTED PHOTO

a junior biomedical engineering student at WPI, was also named to the honor. The awards were presented by a WPI alumnus, Alfred Potvin, who has enjoyed a successful career in biomedical engineering in both academia and industry.



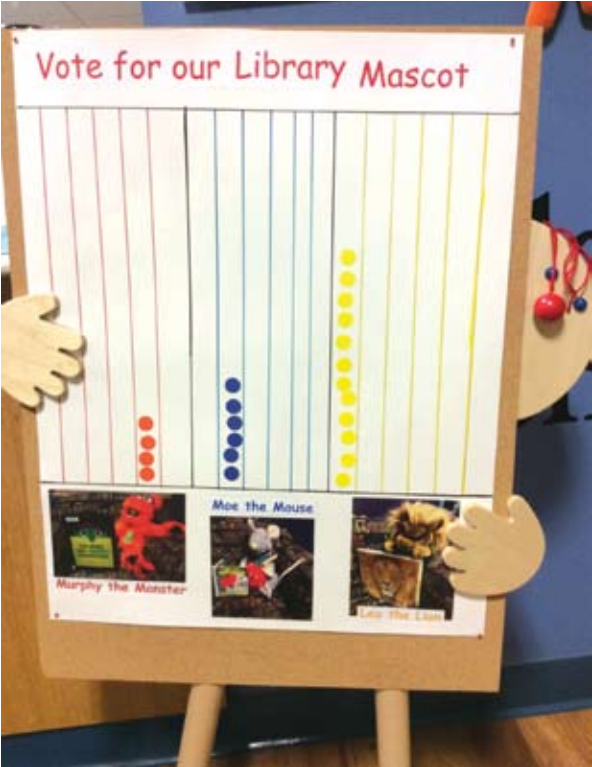
The Agawam library will accept votes for the Children's Room mascot through Feb.29. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kids can vote for library mascot

Children of all ages are invited to help pick a mascot for the Agawam Public Library Children's Room. Will it be Moe the Mouse, Murphy the Monster or Leo the Lion? Voting is open through Feb. 29 in the Children's Room at the library, at 750 Cooper St., Agawam.

The elected mascot will help get the word out about new books or programs that are going on at the library. The mascot will also make special guest appearances at story times. Overall, the mascot will help keep the Children's Room a fun place to learn and grow.

For more information, call the library at 413-789-1550, ext. 3.



Right: The library mascot ballot includes Murphy the Monster, Moe the Mouse and Leo the Lion.

School Lunch

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 22: Baked chicken patty sandwich, low-fat potato chips, carrots and ranch dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: French toast sticks, hash browns, pork sausage links, baked apples, orange juice cup.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Ziti with meat sauce, garlic knot, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 25: Turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, Feb. 26: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday, Feb. 22: Baked chicken patty sandwich, low-fat potato chips, carrots and ranch dressing, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: French toast sticks, hash browns, pork sausage links, baked apples, orange juice cup.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Ziti with meat sauce, garlic knot, seasoned corn, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Feb. 25: Grilled ham and cheese on whole-wheat, Tater Tots, celery sticks with hummus, fresh and chilled fruit.

Friday, Feb. 26: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with light dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST MENU

Monday, Feb. 22: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, cinnamon graham crackers, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Tuesday, Feb. 23: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted nutri-grain bars, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Wednesday, Feb. 24: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted muffins, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Thursday, Feb. 25: Assorted low-sugar cereal, 1 percent low-fat milk, assorted Trix yogurt, mozzarella cheese string, juice.

Friday, Feb. 26: Pillsbury mini waffles with syrup for dipping, mozzarella cheese string, 1 percent low-fat milk, juice.

OLDE FARM AMERICAN BISTRO



15% off your purchase of \$25 or more with this ad
Excludes alcohol.

Pub & Movie Night - Every Thursday 4:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
Movie starts at 6:00 P.M.

We will be showing a different family friendly movie each week.

We will also be offering a special Pub Menu featuring **\$6.99 burgers.**

Bistro Steak Night - Every Fri. & Sat. 4:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Three Course Dinner - \$20

Featuring our 8 oz. Bistro Steak with our signature Ranch rub and our Chef's sauce of the day

Live Jazz - Every Friday Night 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
with Joe Wilson on Alto Sax

NEW WINTER HOURS

Thursday, Friday and Saturday 4:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WINTER MENU

Featuring Chicken Pot Pie, Zinfandel Braised Beef Short Ribs, Horseradish Crusted Salmon and more.

OLDE FARM AMERICAN BISTRO AT THE RANCH GOLF CLUB
65 SUNNYSIDE ROAD, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077 | 413.569.9333 EXT. 2



FIRST TUESDAYS ARE BACK!



Starting January 5th - Shop the First Tuesday of every month and get 10% off your entire purchase

307 E MAIN ST. WESTFIELD, MA
413.568.8333 Mon-Sat 10 AM - 6 PM
& Sunday 11 AM - 5 PM



The 2016 St. Patrick's Committee awardees, from left, are David Cecchi, Citizenship Award; Nicole Bertera, Anne Sullivan Award; and Agawam Parade Marshal John McCarthy.



This year's Colleen, Elizabeth Caracciolo, is given her sash by 2015 Colleen Lauren Muszynski. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

COLLEEN ■ from page 1

being a good role model and continuing to participate in my community," said Caracciolo. "I look forward to all of the events that will allow the girls and I to form an even closer bond than we have already developed."

She said getting to represent the entire town makes her feel a new level of closeness to her neighbors.

"I can't wait to become a part of so many traditions," said Caracciolo.

It has been several years since a college student had been named the Colleen. The last five colleens have all been high school students, though the contest is open to women aged 17 to 22. Caracciolo said her

family led her to participate because of their history of involvement.

"My family inspired me to compete in this contest initially," she said. "Mainly because my aunts and mom have been Holyoke Colleen and court members in the past. I grew up seeing pictures of them in their crowns and dresses, and knew I wanted to be like them someday."

Caracciolo went through the interview process last Saturday morning, answering questions from a panel of three judges. On Sunday morning, she dressed in her evening gown and was escorted to the coronation. She answered an additional question for the judges and then joined the rest of the contestants for the remainder of the program.

She says much of her family is from Holyoke, where the parade and the Grand Colleen are a tradition stretching back six decades.

"I've always had a lot of Irish traditions and celebration," said Caracciolo. "I'm so glad my family's influence has led me here."

As the Colleen, she will represent the town in activities such as the corned beef dinner, a gathering of local Colleens, and sitting on the float in both the St. Patrick's parade and the Memorial Day parade in Agawam.

Caracciolo is pursuing a master's degree in social work and she works as a waitress. She does community service at Thousand Cranes Art Studio and Children's Services

of Hampden County.

She called being named the Colleen the realization of a lifelong dream.

In addition to Caracciolo being crowned, 2016 citizen awards were presented at the coronation.

The awardees include the 2016 Agawam Parade Marshal, John McCarthy. The Anne Sullivan Award was given to Nicole Bertera, Safford's co-chair for the Colleen contest. The Citizenship Award will go to David Cecchi this year. All three received sashes and presented with citations from Mayor Richard Cohen, state Sen. Donald Humason, R-Westfield, and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick.

MOTEL ■ from page 1

still being contemplated and we hope to attract high-quality tenants to this location," he stated in the press release.

The purchase was announced on Feb. 10. Cohen praised it as an investment in that part of town.

"We are trying to make our community more attractive for businesses," said Cohen. "Colvest has a great reputation for redeveloping properties and I am very pleased that they have purchased the property."

The Agawam Motor Lodge has been in an embattled state for months after town officials carried out several inspections of the property in June 2015, amid complaints of unsanitary conditions.

While it seemed the health and building code issues had been resolved, there was still a pending court case between the town and the business. The town sought to have the business placed in a receivership, and to have the building condemned and

demolished.

Owner Cuhulo Yoo was working with West Springfield lawyer Gerard DiSanti to address the lawsuit and the code updates.

Colvest has worked in Agawam before. The firm developed the CVS drugstore on Springfield Street next to Sarat Ford. "Colvest has done some good work in the area," said Town Planning and Community Development Director Marc Strange. "We are hoping for the same at this site. In some ways, it is really the gateway to Agawam. That motel was the first thing you would see when you drive over the bridge. I think Colvest will create something that will make a better first impression."

Strange said the purchase will do wonders for the area, but the town and Colvest will have to be mindful about traffic.

"There definitely has to be consideration for traffic coming on and off that bridge," said Strange.

The sale ends a 15-year tenure of own-



The Agawam Motor Lodge on Suffield Street will be demolished and redeveloped. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

ing the Agawam Motor Lodge for Yoo. He was criticized for his operation of the motel by public safety officials in town, with the Police Department complaining of an

excessive number of police and ambulance calls to the location. In the town's lawsuit, the motel was called a "nuisance."

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SPORTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Destefano's treys, balanced attack take down Lions

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – When you have the hot hand, your coach and teammates will ride it as long as they can and hope it leads to victory.

Mike Destefano nailed five 3-pointers in a row for the Agawam boys basketball team to help the Brownies take a 30-point lead in the second quarter and surge into the playoffs with an 81-49 victory over visiting Ludlow last Thursday night.

“I was actually hoping he (Destefano) would take a sixth shot,” said coach Dave Federico. “He did a great job while he was hitting those threes.”

Agawam was never really in trouble as they jumped out to a 7-0 lead. They were up by four points later in the first quarter, but pulled away with a 3-pointer from Kyle Currier.

Meesha Ohradka had a trey and make it 20-8, but Ludlow's Chad Noga picked up a trey to keep the Lions in the game 20-11 at the end of the first quarter.

The Brownies would build on their lead early in the second with scores by Myles Scott, Sean Moore, and Ohradka to make it 29-11.

With about 6:00 remaining in the second, Destefano would take the ball down the court, and instead of starting a play, he took a long shot from the left side, swishing the first trey.



Myles Scott takes a free throw. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Mike Destefano sets to pass the ball to his right.

BOYS BASKETBALL | page 10

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Agawam poised for playoff run

Defense downs Falcons

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The sports cliché of “defense wins ball games” is used a lot.

And it is the reason the Agawam High School girls basketball team is just one win away from qualifying for the tournament, a position that has alluded the Brownies in recent years.

Coach Harold Cote said Agawam can play defense with just about any team in Western Massachusetts, and continued to prove that by beating Minnechaug Regional High School last Wednesday night 33-26.

Agawam is 9-7 and eight of the wins have come with Agawam scoring less than 50 points.

“We know we are definitely not going to score a lot of points,” said Cote. “But we can play great defense and we can keep teams from getting extra shots.”

Agawam's best run of last Wednesday's win was holding the Falcons to just one basket in the final 6:40 of the second quarter.



Allison Wheeler tries to move the ball further, but Minnechaug's defense provides pressure.



Jessica Lingenberg tries to make a shot. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

It was part of a four-point second frame that saw Minnechaug trail by just five at halftime.

Agawam was able to maintain the five-point lead throughout the early going of the second half, and their defense did an excellent job keeping the Falcons from taking a second and third shot on offense.

Bianca Culhane was a big reason for that. The Agawam reserve

came off the bench and turned in 13 rebounds, several of them coming at big moments when the Falcons were looking for that basket that could turn the momentum.

“Bianca is probably one of our best jumpers on the team,” said Cote. “She did a great job pulling rebounds down tonight.”

GIRLS BASKETBALL | page 11

HOCKEY

Falcons oust defending champion Agawam from playoff contention

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - An unexpectedly good season for the Minnechaug hockey just keeps getting better. With their 6-3 win over Agawam, the Falcons won their 11th game in a row and solidified their lead in the tough Berry Division and in the Division 3 tournament.

The final three goal margin was not entirely indicative as the two teams battled throughout. The Brownies led 1-0 after the first and it was tied at 2-2 after two. Agawam took back the lead in the first two minutes of the final frame and it remained a 3-2 game until the Falcons tied it with 5:33 to play. Two minutes later they got the lead and eventually added a pair of empty net goals in the final minute.

Thirty seconds into the game, Noah Hemenway put an 8 foot shot on goal, that was stopped by Nick Askins. Thirty seconds later Aleks Vanderleeden did the same on a 10-footer by John Passerini. Riley Pearson followed that with a

15 footer that was wide right and then again from three feet a minute later. Vanderleeden made that save as well as one off the stick of Dom Ingham nine seconds after that. The Falcons got the puck down to the other, where Anthony Piteo was wide right from 10 feet. A minute later, Askins blocked his five footer.

That led to a break and just 11 seconds after the Piteo shot and save, Brett Fila finished off a pass from Preston Kozub from five feet out. The time was 1:01 and Agawam led 1-0. Croteau, who had the clearing pass, picked up an assist. Agawam was called for a penalty with 42 seconds left and that would continue into the second period. Minnechaug had eight shots on goal to seven for Agawam in a very evenly matched first period.

The Falcons picked up the pace in the second period. Still on the power play, 22 seconds in, they got a shot by Tyler Ross from 20 feet that was wide right. Ingham got the puck to the other

HOCKEY | page 11

Sports

Kozlak a runner-up, Brownies finishes seventh at sectionals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SPRINGFIELD – Minnechaug Regional's Ryan Monteiro won the 145-pound wrestling championship and earned the Outstanding Wrestler honors for the Western Massachusetts Division I Championships held last Saturday at Springfield's Central High School.

Monteiro scored an 18-7 major decision over Chicopee's Raymond Heredia. That capped his day, but Monteiro also had two pinfalls before that.

Minnechaug overall, finished in fifth place with 119 points.

Central won its 12th consecutive title with 233 points. Putnam was second, West Springfield third, and Chicopee finished in fourth place with 129 points.

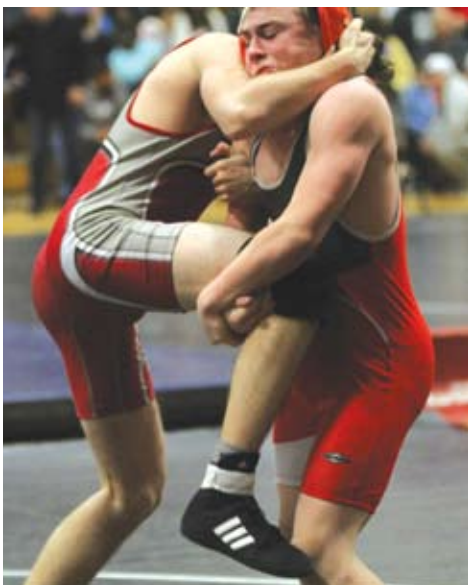
Ludlow made some noise this year with a sixth place finish with 101 points. Agawam was seventh with 96.5 points, and Chicopee Comprehensive was eighth with 77 points.

Ludlow's Dylan Beddow captured the 106-pound crown with a pinfall victory over West Springfield's Christen Leporatti. He scored the win in 1:12.

Brandon Moreau was a champion this year for Comp at 113 pounds, defeating Chicopee High's Ivan Diaz by a 7-6 decision. Comp also captured the 170-pound weight class with Wilfredo David defeating Max Stukalin 10-6.

At 152 pounds, Minnechaug's Lucas Gobel scored a 4-3 decision win over Xzander Chapman. Minnechaug's third champion was Benton Whitley, who defeated Agawam's Spencer Kozlak in the 195-pound final 11-2.

Chicopee High's Rudy Hernandez was the runner up at 120-pounds, losing to Central's Mathew Garcia. Also falling short was Rey



Jake White tries to take down his opponent at 145 pounds.

Dishmeyer, who lost by decision 5-0 in the 160-pound final.

Ludlow's Cesar Alvan lost in the 132-pound final by a 17-3 decision. His teammate, Dominic Coelho lost 8-2 in the 138-pound final. Brandon Macznik fell 11-8 in the 182-pound final against Putnam's Taha Huggins.

At 220 pounds, Joel Rodriguez took the runner-up spot with a 5-2 loss against Central's Ryan Pinkham.

Host Central had six individual champions.

Wrestlers who finished in the top four in their respective weight classes qualified for the Division I State Championship meet scheduled for Feb. 19 and 20 at Brockton High School.



Jimmy Adams grapples for Agawam in a 120-pound consolation match.



Daigon Bishop gets the takedown at 138 pounds.

BOYS BASKETBALL ■ from page 9

After a Ludlow turnover, Destefano took another shot. Swish. The same repeated three more times and just like that, Agawam had a 46-16 lead nearing the end of the second quarter.

Federico said the key strategy to any game is to keep the shooting and the scoring as balanced as possible. But Destefano's second quarter run is the type of thing you go with while it works.

"You never want any of your shooters to get rusty by going too long in between shots," said Federico. "But when someone is doing what Mike is doing, you let them go for a bit."

The Brownies continued their high school trend right into the second half as they kept the Lions at a distance. With most of Agawam's bench into the game for the second half, the Lions were able to put up 22 points in the third quarter. But Agawam's defense quieted the Ludlow scoring attack in the fourth and regained the 30-point lead near the end of the game.

The victory raised Agawam's overall record to 11-5, leaving behind a difficult start to the season and giving the Brownies a 9-1 Suburban League record.

"We are definitely looking at the playoffs but we are also hoping to clinch a league title to go with it," said Federico. "That is something we have not done in a long time."

Five players scored in double-digits with Sean Moore and Ohradka finishing with 17 points each. Destefano finished with 15 points, and Scott and Currier had 10 points each.

Noga finished with 17 points for Ludlow. Zach Chipman had nine points and Ryder Hasting scored eight points.

Agawam hosts Minnechaug Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Ludlow drops to 1-15 and host South Hadley Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 258.



Meesha Ohradka dribbles for the basket
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Meesha Ohradka makes a three-point attempt.



Kyle Currier dekes to his right.

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Sports

GIRLS BASKETBALL ■ from page 9

Agawam only trailed once in the entire game, and that happened very early, but when Jess Lingenberg was fouled heading up for a shot, her two free throws gave Agawam a 5-4 lead. The Brownies never trailed after that thanks to the defense keeping the Falcons at a distance.

Cote used every member of his nine-member throughout the game. He said every member plays great defense and he is able to move players in and out of the lineup to keep everyone fresh.

“We have players coming and in and out and a lot of unsung heroes like Allison Wheeler who do a great job keeping the other team off the board,” said Cote.

The offense was led by Christie Mirski, who opened the game with a trey for the Brownies, and finished with a team-high 10 points.

Meghan D’Amours had seven points and Lingenberg contributed six points.

Minnechaug struggled on offense and could not keep up with the pressure Agawam put on them throughout the game. Rachel Granger led the Falcons, but was limited to just seven points.

Agawam is now 4-1 in the Valley Wheel league. They need just one win to qualify for tournament, but Cote says the team has eyes on its first league title in recent memory. He could not recall the last time the Brownies were league champions.

Agawam is at Westfield on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

Minnechaug dropped to 5-11, but hold a tie for second place with a 3-2 league record. If the Falcons can tie for second place in the league, they would still qualify for tournament.

RIGHT: Meghan D’Amours tries for a shot with pressure on. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Christie Mirski makes a drive for the basket.



Sam Charette tries to block a dribble lane for Minnechaug's Kelsey Slepchuk.

Agawam High School athletics to induct first Hall of Fame class

AGAWAM - The Agawam High School Athletic Department is proud and excited to announce the induction of the inaugural class of The Agawam High School Athletic Hall of Fame. AHS has a long and proud history which encompasses many sports.

The AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee was formed earlier this year to recognize and honor those who have made a significant athletic contribution to Agawam High School. The Hall of Fame Committee is looking forward to a community effort to help make the A.H.S. Athletic Hall of Fame a tribute to the athletes, coaches, teams and contributors who have given so much to the high school and to the Town of Agawam through sport. The presentation of the first Hall of Fame class will be held at the Agawam High School on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016. Details will follow.

Effective immediately, The Agawam High Athletic Hall of Fame Committee will be accepting completed nomination packets for athletes, teams and contributors who have distinguished themselves in athletics at Agawam High School as well as in their college and professional lives.

Nomination form directions must be followed exactly with all necessary information included. Incomplete nomination forms will not be accepted, so please be as accurate and complete as possible. Nomination forms are due on or before April 1, 2016, to be considered for induction into the AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2016.

Nomination packets are available at the Agawam High School Athletic Department Office and on line at: http://www.agawampublicschools.org/pages/Agawam_PS/Athletics/Athletics.

Fishing and hunting swap meet

AGAWAM - The annual Agawam Fishing and Hunting Swap Meet will take place at the Polish American Club, 139 Southwick St.

The show will take place on March 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be a \$2 door charge.

This show will have all kinds of fishing and hunting gear. In the past vendors have new, used, antique Fishing and hunting gear. This includes fresh water, salt water and ice fishing equipment. We also have on hand many antique vendors and sellers to quote that old tackle for free. This show has something for everyone.

If you are interested in selling your gear at this show please call Dave Dussault now at 413-427-0846 to reserve your space. This show has sold out of vending space every year it was held.

Ski, hockey tickets available at Park & Rec Office

AGAWAM - The Parks & Recreation Winter Brochure is now available online at www.agawam.ma.us.

Discounted Ski Blandford tickets are available for \$25 each and can be used any day that the mountain is open for skiing during the 2015-16 season. Tickets are available at the Parks & Recreation Department, 1000 Suffield St. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

Discounted Springfield Falcons tickets may be purchased for \$15 each at the Agawam Park & Recreation Department. The vouchers can be exchanged at the Falcons box office at any time for any Falcons home game. Call 413-821-0514 for more information.

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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HOCKEY ■ from page 9

end and had his 15-footer blocked by Vanderleeden at 55 seconds in.

The Falcons got the lead at 21:59 when Piteo one-timed a pass from Jack McGrath. some 8 feet from the goal. Minnechaug led 2-1. Forty-five seconds later, Askins stopped a 12 foot Hemenway shot and a minute after that, Nathan Champagne was wide right from 20 feet.

With 4:25 to go in the second, Ingham had his 8-footer stopped and 40 seconds later Lecuyer and Fila were blocked by Vanderleeden from five on both. Hemenway got the puck in on Askins 10 seconds after that, but then Agawam made good on a break to tie the game with 3:07 to play in the second. Schwarz connected from 5 feet, taking a pass from Lecuyer, who had been fed by Keith Ruby. With 3:07 left in the second. the game was tied at 2-2. The Brownies had three shots in the final 2:30 on goal by Kozub, Pearson and Croteau. Askins stopped shots by Josh DeCarolis and Piteo in the final minute. The Piteo shot with 14.5 left was on a power play with the penalty having come with 45.8 left. The score was tied at 2-2 and Minnechaug held a 19-17 edge in shots on goal.

Minnechaug took the lead with 3:49 to play on a short-handed goal. Champagne fed Josh DeCarolis with 15 seconds left on a power play. Vanderleeden stopped a shot by Niko Passerini with 1:45 to play and then Agawam pulled Askins. Ingham shot wide left with 1:10 left. With the goal open, Mariani got the puck down ice and into the goal from 12 feet with 55 seconds left. Vanderleeden made one last save on Croteau with 28 to play. William Gosselin finished the scoring with 1.5 seconds remaining on an empty-netter.

Minnechaug improved to 14-2 and they take on East Longmeadow this week in a big game.

Legals

LEGAL AD AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00 PM**, at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Request to Amend an Order of Conditions by the Town of Agawam for work to be performed on School Street.

By Order of **Henry A. Kozloski**, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

2/18/16

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the *Agawam Advertiser News* should be sent directly to klanier@turley.com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

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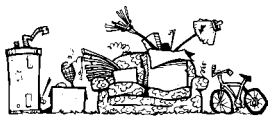
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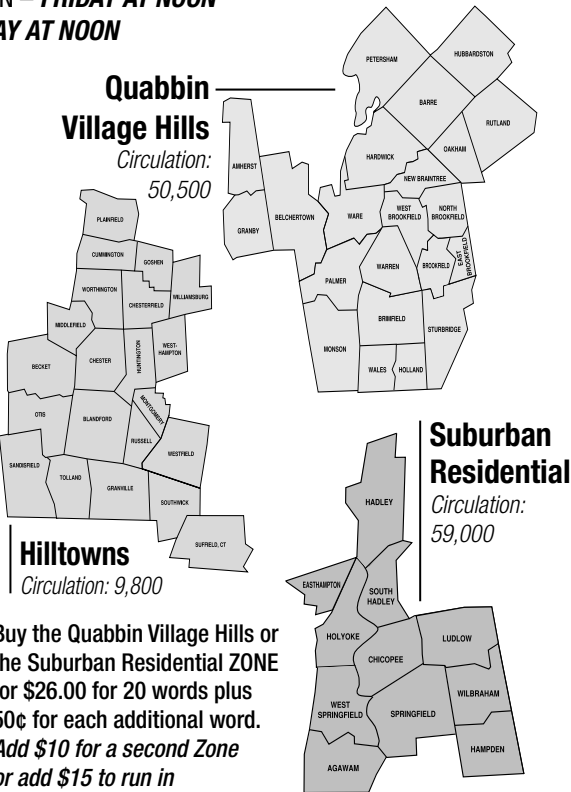
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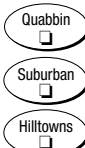
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Rose Parade a highlight of trip west

Reidar Nordal and Geraldine Schilling-Nordal recently returned to Agawam from a journey west along the rails.

The couple traveled from Springfield by train over the Christmas holiday, taking sleeping compartments on Amtrak's Lake Shore Limited and Southwest Chief, then enjoyed a bus tour of the attractions of Southern California.

They spent a day in Pasadena, Calif., for the annual Rose Parade — two and a half hours of bands and rose-covered floats — and had a chance to view the floats up close, after the parade was over.

"We only then realized that the other side of the floats

are not so elaborately decorated," Schilling-Nordal said — only the side facing the television cameras is covered in flowers.

Other stops on their tour of the Los Angeles area included the Getty Museum, Hollywood, La Brea tar pits, Reagan Presidential Library, RMS Queen Mary, Santa Monica Pier and a tour of Universal Studios.

The couple returned by train, stopping in Arizona to see the Grand Canyon. Schilling-Nordal said she would recommend Southern California and the Rose Parade as a vacation — either by train or via plane from Bradley Airport — but advises travelers to plan by June.



Erika Winter was the 98th Rose Queen. She is an 18-year old senior at Flintridge Preparatory School in California.



Filmmaker Ken Burns was this year's grand marshal at the Rose Parade.



Reidar Nordal and Geraldine Schilling-Nordal, of Agawam, attended this year's Rose Parade in Pasadena, Calif. They are pictured with a recent edition of the Agawam Advertiser News. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The University of Iowa Marching Band performed in the Rose Parade, just before playing the national anthem at the Rose Bowl college football game.



The Stanford University cheerleaders wave to the crowd at the Rose Parade. Their football team defeated Iowa, 45-16, in the bowl game.

YMCA ■ from page 1

crease its membership roster.

A membership drive has seen a net 70 household increase in since the start of the year, with the YMCA well on its way to meeting a target of 600 household memberships by June. Longer hours, new programs targeted at youth, and partnerships with the town library and Fire Department should keep drawing in new members, Melendez said.

Among the new programs is a running and conditioning program which has seen interest from nearly 100 middle and junior high schoolers. The program incorporates outdoor practices at School Street Park and indoor fitness at the Agawam Y. The Y will also offer a fitness-and-reading class in conjunction with the library's summer reading program, and a junior firefighter program.

Both he and Mineo added, however, that the Agawam Y loses prospective members because it doesn't offer some of the amenities of a traditional YMCA, such as a gymnasium, indoor track or swimming pool.

Another new YMCA leader, Scott Berg, offered his advice at the meeting. Berg took office late last month as the new president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, the parent organization for the Agawam Y.

Berg said the growing Agawam Y could learn from the Scantic Valley YMCA, a successful suburban branch of the Springfield Y that was founded in 1996 — but did not build its own facility, in Wilbraham, until 2004. Berg was part of the team that built the Scantic Valley Y by focusing on programs and membership first.

In those early years, "we had no intention of building a building," he said, and the Y in Agawam needs to adopt a similar attitude of partnering with existing facilities in town and offering the community-building programs that fit the available resources.

Organizers purposely chose not to name the Y in Wilbraham after the town, Berg said. In those early years, with YMCA programs held in borrowed sites in several of the towns east of Springfield, the Y built up a strong membership base not only in Wilbraham but also in neighboring communities like Palmer and Monson. He said the Agawam Y may also need to adopt a regional approach to thrive — something that Melendez noted it has not done in its first year and a half.

"People think the Agawam Y is for the Agawam community," Melendez said. "My focus has been on trying to make the Agawam community successful, and then [later] share that vision with Southwick and West Springfield."

Berg, who is responsible for the downtown Y, Dunbar Y, Scantic Valley Y and Agawam Y, has a family connection to



Board members and leadership staff at a recent Agawam YMCA board meeting include, from left, Erin Young, Ryan Rackliffe, George David, Sylvester Thomas, Andrew Melendez, Scott Berg, Joseph Mineo, Betty Grimaldi, Maureen Cayer, Mayor Richard Cohen and Dexter Johnson. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY

the previous YMCA presence in Agawam. His family lived in town for a year in 1968, during which time his sister attended camp at Perry Lane Park, then owned by the YMCA. When the family went through a difficult time and almost pulled Berg's sister out of camp, YMCA officials struck a deal with his mother to waive the camp fees in exchange for her selling Y memberships.

WALNUT ■ from page 1

The current design involves a renovated road and a roundabout that will help control traffic flow at the corner of Walnut Street Extension and Ramah Circle, at EB's restaurant. Strange said the roundabout, a type of rotary, will be a new concept, and owners have said they would be in favor of it.

"One thing we definitely want to do is make sure there is a method for people to turn around if they are having trouble finding parking," said Strange. "It will also help keep the traffic flow going steadily."

Another element to the redesign is the pending purchase of the Games and Lanes property located at 346-350 Walnut Street Ext. The sale has not yet closed, Strange and Mayor Richard Cohen confirmed earlier this week, but both indicated everything is going well and the purchase could be finalized soon.

"They have now completed all the testing of the site

and the surrounding properties," said Cohen. "Everything is looking pretty good right now and I am hoping the sale will be done soon. But it is not a done deal yet."

Strange said the Games and Lanes issue and the redesign are separate, but interrelated.

"Really, the sale of the property is a separate thing," said Strange. "But overall, the redevelopment of Games and Lanes is essential to the revitalization of the entire area."

Site Redevelopment Technologies is the firm that is seeking to purchase Games and Lanes. The firm's focus is taking contaminated sites, cleaning them up, and selling them to developers. The site was found to be contaminated several years ago, but much of the contamination on surrounding properties has dissipated, Cohen said.

Strange said the next business owners meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at First Stop.

School Committee Meeting

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main Street
Tuesday, Feb. 23 — 7 p.m.

Budget Finance Subcommittee meeting — 6 p.m. Doering Library

1. Call to order
2. Moment of silence
3. Roll call of attendance
4. Regular meeting — 7 p.m.
5. Citizen's speak time
6. Highlights on Education
 - a. Presentation of Agawam Academic A
7. Superintendent's Notes
8. Student Advisory Committee

representative update

9. Unfinished business:
 - a. SCR-16-06, Approval for the Academy of Artistic Performance to use the AJHS gymnasium for a baton-twirling contest on March 6, 2016.
10. Business meeting:
 - a. Routine matters
 - 1) Approval of minutes
 - 2) Calendar/Correspondence
 - b. Warrants/Transfers
 - c. Reports:
 - * Personnel update (paper report)
 - * Financial update — R. Click-

stein

- * Superintendent's mid-cycle evaluation — W. Sapelli

- 2). Subcommittee updates
11. New business:
 - a. SCR-16-07, Approval of AJHS trip to Washington, DC
 - b. SCR-16-08, Approval of AHS band trip to Cleveland, Ohio
 - c. SCR-16-09, Approval to authorize preparation of a Statement of Interest for a new PreK and Kindergarten school
 - 12. Any other items that may legally come before the committee
 - 13. Adjournment

Wine tasting to benefit cancer survivors

WEST SPRINGFIELD — Latitude Restaurant, 1338 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, will host a wine tasting event from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26. Half the proceeds of the event will benefit Survivor Journeys, which provides social and emotional support services to cancer survivors, their families and caregivers.

The cost is \$60 per person and includes

a sample of three red wines and three white wines, plus a food pairing for each wine. Wine experts will be present to discuss each wine as well as answer any questions. Those in attendance will have the opportunity to have their names entered to win a basket with each of the wines sampled.

For tickets, visit eventbrite.com/survivor-journeys.

Housing needs report to be unveiled

JM Goldson Community Preservation & Planning and its team of consultants will present the 2015 Agawam Housing Needs Assessment Report at the Housing Committee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. The goal of

the report is to assist the town in understanding current and future housing needs and lay the groundwork for the town to prepare an updated Housing Production Plan to identify goals and strategies for housing production.

All are welcome to attend.

Announcing Agawam's Brand New Memory Care Neighborhood



Heritage Woods
Assisted Living Community
Genesis HealthCareSM

Heritage Woods is pleased to announce the opening of its new memory care neighborhood, The Birches. Following the Genesis Homestead™ Program, The Birches was created to care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias in a secure, nurturing environment.

The Birches includes:



We are now taking apartment reservations. Call to schedule your tour!



- Private Apartments
- Up to 2 hours/day of personal care assistance including medication management
- Three daily meals
- Activities 7 days/week
- Housekeeping
- Respite Care

OPEN HOUSE
Sat., Feb. 27, 10-2pm

Heritage Woods Assisted Living Community

462 Main Street, Agawam, MA • (413) 789-8332

www.geneshicc.com/heritagewoods